



Westminster Presbyterian Church

*We are called to be and to make disciples
who love God and who love our neighbors.*

May 17, 2026

9:00 a.m.

GATHERING

*Please greet each other warmly as the congregation gathers for worship.
Take a moment and sign the friendship register.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ SONG OF PREPARATION NO. 701 Lord, Prepare Me

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE

One: Christ is risen and ascended on high!
He reigns in glory.

All: **We lift our eyes to heaven,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.**

One: You have ascended in triumph, O Lord,
bestowing gifts upon your people.

All: **Day after day, you bear us up;
you are our salvation and our strength.**

One: God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet!

All: **Blessed be the Lord,
who daily carries us in grace and mercy.**

One: Come, let us worship the ascended Christ,
our risen Lord and coming King.

All: **We worship with joy and expectation,
for his kingdom has no end.**

◆ PRAYER

◆ SONG OF PRAISE NO. 267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

CONFESSION

◆ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign Lord, you have exalted Jesus Christ to reign over all creation, and yet we confess that we do not always live under his lordship. Today we proclaim your victory, but tomorrow we forget. We bow to lesser powers— to comfort, to success, to fear— instead of trusting in your kingdom. You call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth, yet we remain silent, content to stand and look toward heaven rather than go where you send us. Forgive us, we pray, for our divided hearts and timid faith. Lift our eyes to your risen and ascended Son, and fill us with the power of your Spirit, that we may live as your faithful people and bear witness to your grace in all the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Silent Personal Confession-

◆ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 447 We are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

◆ SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbor

THE WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

Dee Bee Wright

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:6-14

PEW BIBLE N.T. PAGE 118

SERMON

What Are You Looking At?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ SONG OF RESPONSE NO. 761 Called As Partners in Christ's Service

◆ DECLARATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

◆ SONG NO. 266

Joy to the World

SENDING OUT

◆ BLESSING

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY:

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Bill Stanfield, Guest Preacher;
Janie Bruce, Director of Adult Discipleship

Nancy Parrish, Pianist

Acolytes: Jane Akery, Riley Gentry

Ushers: Taffy Tamblyn, Robert Tamblyn, Matt Akery

11:00 Livestream at www.wpccharleston.org, YouTube (Westminster Presbyterian Charleston)
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory of Bob and Nella Peele's 73rd anniversary by their family Billy Ray and Dee Dee Beasley, Raleigh, Sarah Jo, Jackson, and Palmer Beasley, Emily and Greg Wilson.

TODAY WE WELCOME REVEREND BILL STANFIELD TO WESTMINSTER

Rev. Bill Stanfield is a founder and CEO of Metanoia. Bill loves reading, writing, exercising and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Rev. Evelyn Oliveira (a co-founder of Metanoia with Bill) have two sons.

About Metanoia: In 2002, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina (CBFSC) desired to invest in transformative efforts to address childhood poverty within the state. CBFSC's coalition of churches hired Urban Ministers Evelyn Oliveira and Bill Stanfield to spend a year listening to residents and leaders within South Carolina's North Charleston neighborhoods with the highest concentration of childhood poverty (per 2000 US Census).

Collectively, CBFSC decided to focus its efforts on Chicora-Cherokee in North Charleston, a small community of under 3,000 people. To Evelyn and Bill, Chicora-Cherokee was, most importantly, a vibrant place, resilient, and fundamentally strong. Many residents and families had lived in the neighborhoods for generations and aspired to continue to build the community for future generations. Metanoia was born out of this year of listening and maintains to this day a deep commitment to listening to neighborhood residents and families, who hold the true expertise about community challenges, aspirations, and solutions.

Metanoia seeks to amplify opportunities for a thriving community with families in Chicora and surrounding historically Black neighborhoods by honing the unique assets that exist here. Their efforts focus on Youth Leadership, Affordable Housing, and Economic Development.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! ALL ARE WELCOME.

We are called to be and to make disciples who love God and who love our neighbors. We are all neighbors no matter our age, race, language, culture, gifts and challenges, gender identity, or sexual orientation. We strive to be a safe and supportive community where all people are included, celebrated, and loved as we grow as disciples together.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Friendship Register in the pews. If you are visiting and wish to learn more about Westminster, leave your contact information. If you are interested in becoming a member, check 'wish to join' and a pastor will be in touch with you.

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER Name tags are available on the name tag cart in the Narthex. Please find yours and wear it on Sunday mornings, returning it before you leave. If yours is missing, please use a sticky badge and put your name on the 'I need a name tag' form.

PRAYER REQUEST?

Leave your written requests in the basket next to the main sanctuary doors. WPC staff will pray for your request at our weekly meeting and throughout the week.

WAYS TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Church Pew Envelope: Place cash or check in the Pew Envelope and drop it in the Offering Plate in the narthex.

Online: Click the "Give Now" button in the top right of our homepage wpccharleston.org. Text: "charlestonwpc" to 73256. Thank you for giving.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it. Fill out a New Member Form and put it in the offering plate in the narthex. Forms are available at the Hospitality Table in the narthex, or you may fill one out online under the visitor tab at wpccharleston.org or using the QR code. One of our pastors or someone from the Membership Committee will quickly be in touch, providing an opportunity individually or with a group to learn more about the church. On a Sunday morning, you'll attend a meeting with the Session for reception into membership. We'll handle paperwork if you're transferring from another church or arrange baptism if you've never been baptized. That same Sunday morning, you'll be introduced to the congregation during worship. Questions? Speak with an usher or one of our pastors following the service



FROM THE WESTMINSTER PULPIT

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|----------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ➤ TODAY | Acts 1:6-14 | Bill Stanfield (Metanoia) Preaching |
| ➤ May 24 | Acts 2 | Pentecost! |
| ➤ May 31 | Matthew 28:16-20 | The Trinity |

MAY 17 IS METANOIA DAY AT WESTMINSTER!

- CEO Bill Stanfield is preaching at both worship services.
- Join us at 10:00 in Covenant Hall for a "Pause and Refresh" Sunday School for all classes: Bill will share news about Metanoia and the good work they are doing in the community.

Metanoia is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community development through community-based leadership and goals as identified by North Charleston residents beginning in 2002. Their core focus areas, each encompassing various initiatives, are:

- Safe, nurturing after-school and summer enrichment spaces for children
- Quality, affordable housing
- Economic re-energizing of disinvested North Charleston neighborhoods

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING NEXT WEEK, MAY 24

- The Cary Grayson Class: This class is facilitated by a team of leaders that engage in a study and reflection of the Bible. Studying 1&2 Chronicles. Class meets in Room 4 of Covenant Hall.
- The LIFE Class Between Easter and Summer, we are studying lessons in leadership from the book of ACTS. Meets in the library. Pastor Priscilla and Lindy Coleman, leaders.
- The No Prep Class. By "no prep" we mean no preparation on the part of the participants. During this class we will read and discuss Jesus' parables in a Bible study format. Participants don't need to prepare ahead, don't need to be experts, and don't need to make a commitment to being present every week. This class meets in the Parlor in the admin hallway.

HANDS OF CHRIST "UNDIE SUNDAYS" UNDERWEAR COLLECTION TIME

From May 3 through May 18, we are asking for the following donations to be brought to the church and placed in the appropriate box in the narthex.

- NEW COLORFUL AND COTTON GIRLS' UNDERWEAR IN SIZES:
Girls Sizes: 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16
Ladies Sizes: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
- NEW COLORFUL AND COTTON BOYS' BOXER/BRIEFS UNDERWEAR IN SIZES:
Boys' and Men's Sizes small, medium, and large

Please No "Tighty Whities" or Nylon Underwear. Thank you for supporting Hands Of Christ!

JOIN US FOR WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY!

Gather with friends and family of all ages for food and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. This week's menu is baked chicken, pork loin, veggies, garden salad, and dessert. Adults \$8, children \$4 and a family cap of \$25 via cash, card or check.

SAMS UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date: Lunch and Learn June 4, 1pm Covenant Hall. Speaker will be Ashley Edwards from The Village at Summerville, speaking on downsizing, selecting the right "next step" for you, costs/insurance, etc. More details to follow.

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

In January, the Session approved a budget of \$1,035,805 for 2026, reflecting our shared commitment to worship, care, formation, mission, and outreach in Christ's name. At the time of the budget's approval, we projected a budget shortfall of \$143,609, based on anticipated giving, other income and our 2025 actual receipts. That is larger than what we typically face, yet Session approved this budget because we believe deeply in the mission and ministry it supports. When we shared this budget at our congregational meeting in February, we extended a prayerful invitation for pledges to help reduce the budget shortfall. While the church has savings to cover the gap if needed, our hope is not to rely on those funds. Through the congregation's faithful and generous response to this invitation, the projected budget shortfall was reduced by more than \$20,000 and now stands at approximately \$123,000. Our church savings are adequate to cover the gap for 2026. The Session is grateful for the congregation's commitment to the mission and ministry of the church. Thank you for your faithful giving.

THE CHOSEN: Summer Sunday School for Adults

We're using Season 2 of the TV show *The Chosen* for summer Sunday School, and we're guessing this Bible study will be unlike others you've encountered. This Bible study is designed to be used in conjunction with *The Chosen*, the groundbreaking streaming television series about the life of Jesus. Each session works in tandem with an episode from the show, bringing the Old and New Testaments to life in a fresh way.

To get the most out of the study, watch the corresponding episode of *The Chosen* prior to Sunday School. BUT, even if you don't get the chance, you'll still enjoy the short clips of the episode we watch and discuss. You can watch *The Chosen* on the Amazon streaming service or here for free: watch.thechosen.tv

Join us for any or all dates. 10:00 - 10:45 in Covenant Hall. Here's the schedule for the first 8 episodes of Season 2.

- June 7 (Season 2, Episode 1)
- June 14 (Season 2, Episode 2)
- June 21 (Season 2, Episode 3)
- June 28 (Season 2, Episode 4)
- July 5 (Season 2, Episode 5)
- July 12 (Season 2, Episode 6)
- July 19 (Season 2, Episode 7)
- July 26 (Season 2, Episode 8)

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, May 17

9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
12:00 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal , Sanctuary
5:00 pm Deacon's Meeting, Covenant Hall
6:00 pm Stated Session Meeting, Covenant Hall
7:30 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, May 18

1:00 pm Hands of Christ Steering Meeting, Covenant Hall
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 79 Court of Honor, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Circle 1 Meeting, Library
7:45 pm Boy Scout Troop 79 Court of Honor Reception, Covenant Hall

Tuesday, May 19

10:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 20

6:00 pm Wonderful Wednesday, Covenant Hall
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Thursday, May 21

Friday, May 22

Saturday, May 23

Sunday, May 24

9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Grounded in Prayer, Sanctuary
7:30 pm AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Al-Anon (843) 762-6999

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

Neighbors Together (843) 747-1788

Narcotics Anonymous (843) 852-3001

Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988

PostPartumsupportchas.org

Cary Alexandre (WPC)
 Acker Family (WPC)
 Daryn Baker (Jane Acker)
 Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)
 Bob & Angelle Beatty (WPC)
 Binnicker Family (WPC)
 Allyn Bruce (WPC)
 Diane Byers (Deb Frasier)
 Susie Cashion (WPC)
 Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)
 Lydia Crosby (WPC)
 Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)
 Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)
 Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)
 Ann & Ellen Farrar (Beth Georgen)
 Art Field (Gloria Purcell)
 Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)
 Randleson Floyd/Daniels (Gloria Purcell)
 Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)
 Emma Fruth (WPC)
 Bob Georgen (WPC)
 Family of Keith Gordon (WPC)
 Margaret Ellen Hamman (Suzanne Fox)

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

Janie Hammersmith (WPC)
 Clara Hanger (Gloria Purcell)
 Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney)
 Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider)
 Anna Hewitt (Dee Bee Wright)
 Richard Holtz (WPC)
 The Hudson Family (Priscilla Holtzclaw)
 Emerson Jones (Molly Griggs)
 Lynn Koger (WPC)
 Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)
 Fran Ligon (WPC)
 Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger)
 Joe Marchiney (Carole Russell)
 Susie Martin (Beth Georgen)
 John Martschink (WPC)
 Mary Martschink (WPC)
 Jay Massalon (Dana Tumbleston)
 David McEachern (Debra Luhn)
 Gavin McLeod (Pamela Roberts)
 Marley Miller (Dee Bee Wright)
 Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)

Julie Pell (Sandy & Debbie Pell)
 Powell Family (WPC)
 Nancy Plowden (WPC)
 Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)
 Donna Purcell (WPC)
 Gloria Purcell (WPC)
 Joyce Reeves (Sue Smoak)
 Paula Ruth (Debbie McQueeney)
 Sarah Schumann (WPC)
 Cliff & Liz Shelor (WPC)
 Tradd Shepard (WPC)
 Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)
 The Jerry Smoak Family (WPC)
 Ray Thomas (Sara Dwyer)
 Towne Family (WPC)
 Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)
 Kathy Unger (John Dounian)
 Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)
 Aileen Wiese (WPC)
 Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)
 Betty Winter (Dee Bee Wright)
 Peggy Winter (Dee Bee Wright)
 Eleanor Woodbury (Anna Kerr)
 Robbie Yarnall (WPC)

PRAYER LIST UPDATED MAY 2026

If you need to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please email office@wpccharleston.org

Friend of the Week
 Mary Martschink
 1218 Durham Place
 Charleston, SC 29407

Mission of the Week
 WPC Food Pantry

Student of the Week
 Ella Patrick
 7332 Kestrel Trail
 Hanahan, SC 29410

Church Family
 Marty & Elaine Tucker
 Evie

ELDERS AND SESSION COMMITTEES

Administration: Michael Patrick and Paul Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Randy Davis and Tim Fox; **Christian Education:** Cathy Grills and Kevin Mikles; **Fellowship:** Jon Bazzle and Michael Scruggs; **Finance:** Sarah Schumann and Joshua Robinson; **Membership:** John Dounian and Cameron Baker; **Missions:** Mary McAbee and Natasha Akery; **Preschool:** Ashley Snider; **Worship:** Allyn Bruce and Deborah-Anne Ferguson; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Cathy Grills **Treasurer:** Tim Fox

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard
 Charleston, SC 29407
www.wpccharleston.org (843) 766-8311

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org
 Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, pholtzclaw@wpccharleston.org
 Janie Bruce, Director of Adult Discipleship, jbruce@wpccharleston.org
 Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org
 Sarah Shayban, Director of Music, sshayban@wpccharleston.org
 Kate Cowart, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org
 Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator, finance@wpccharleston.org
 Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org
 Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org